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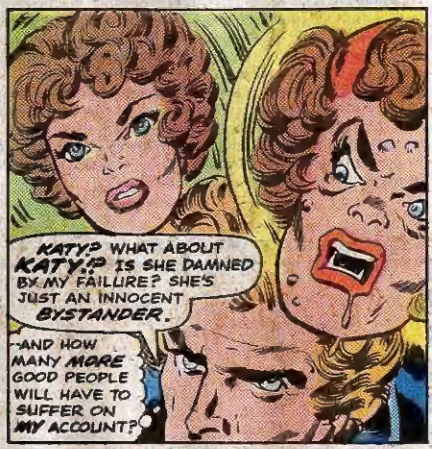

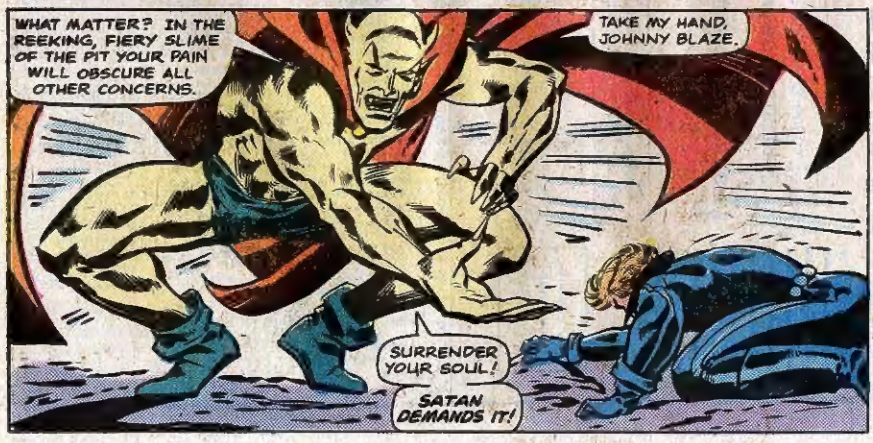

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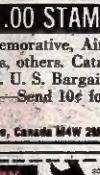

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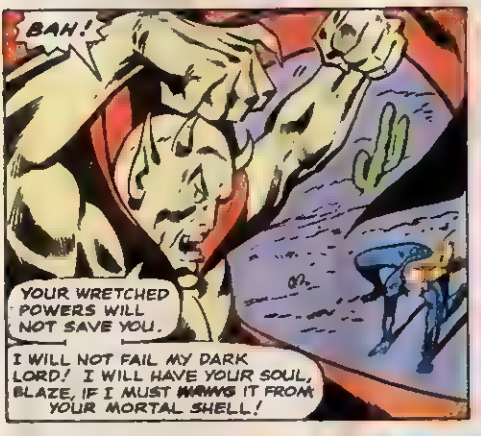

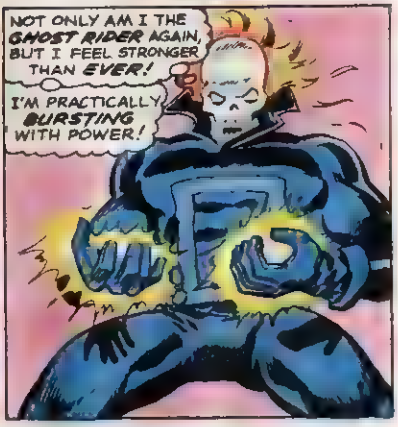

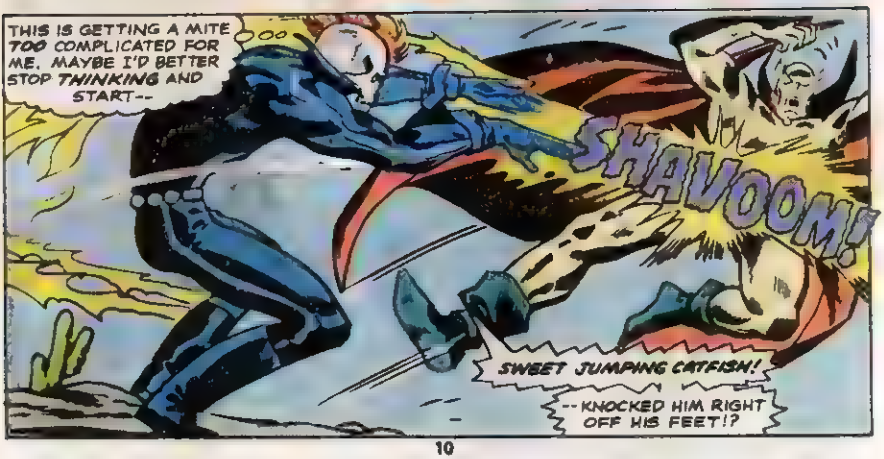

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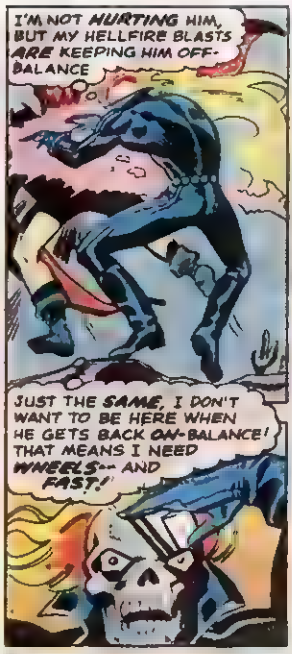

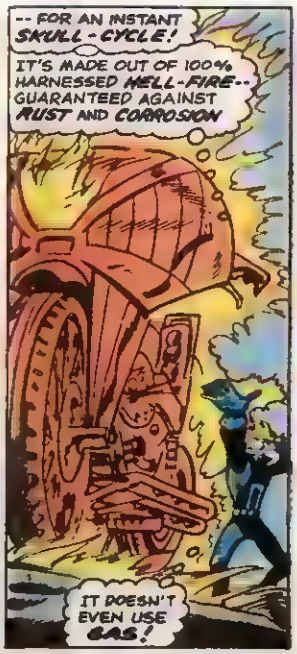

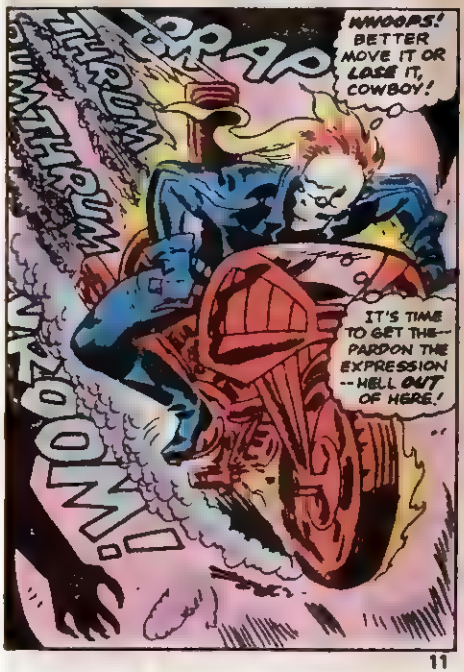

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WHEN AM I GONNA LEARN TO WATCH IT WITH THE SMART MOUTH?

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SKREEE

FOOM!

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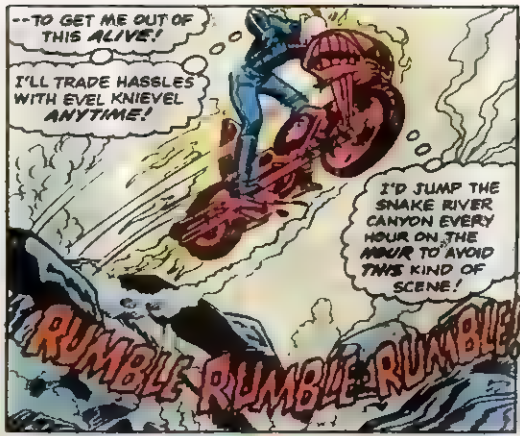

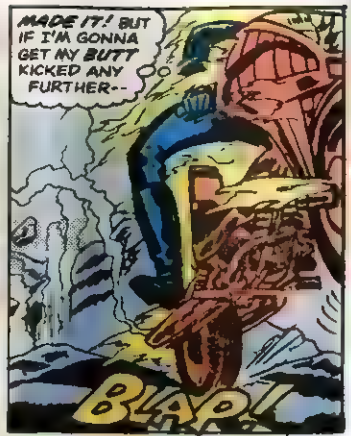

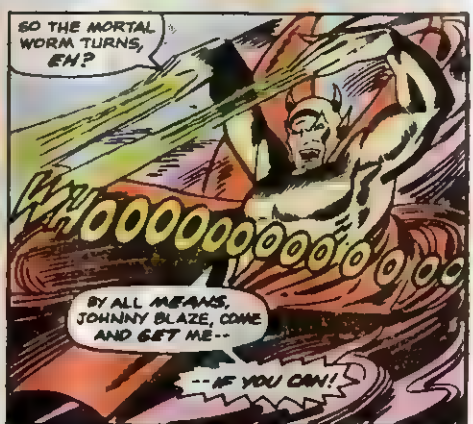

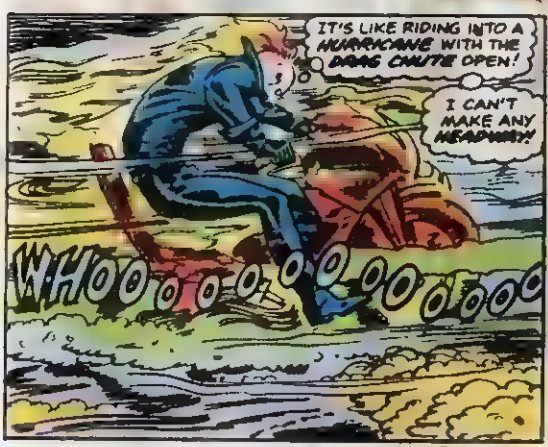

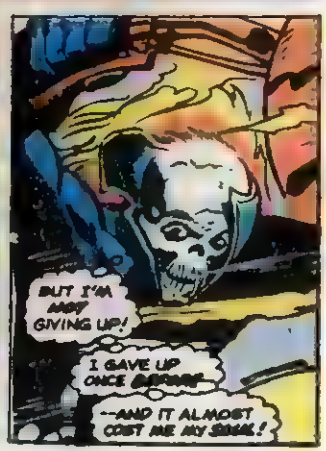

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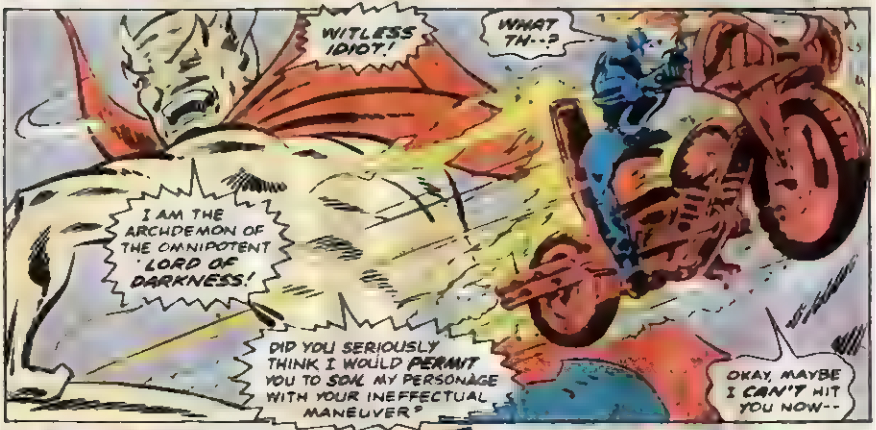

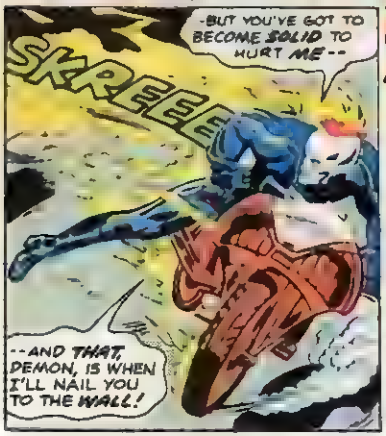

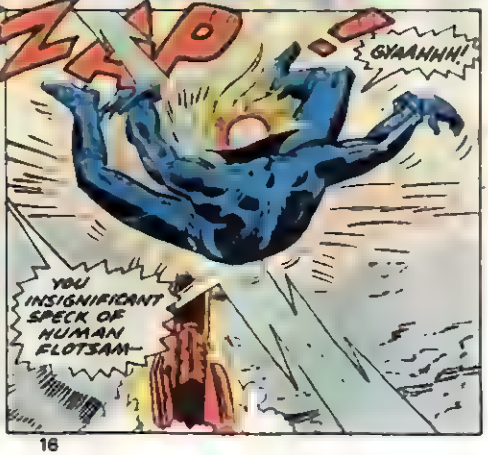

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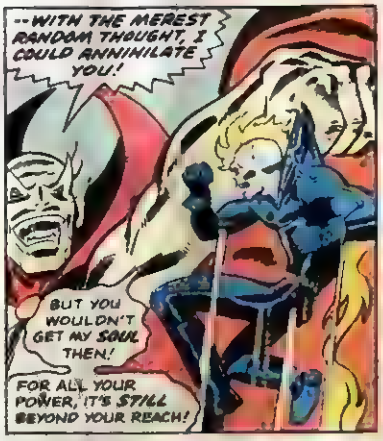

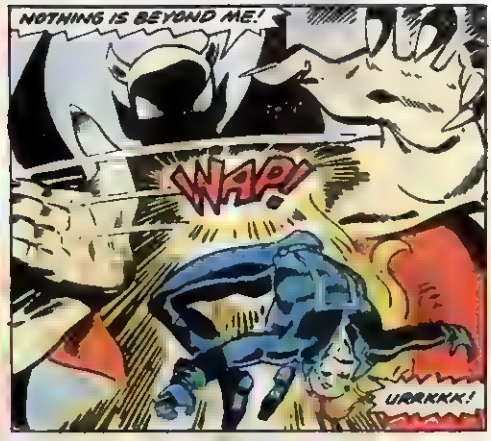

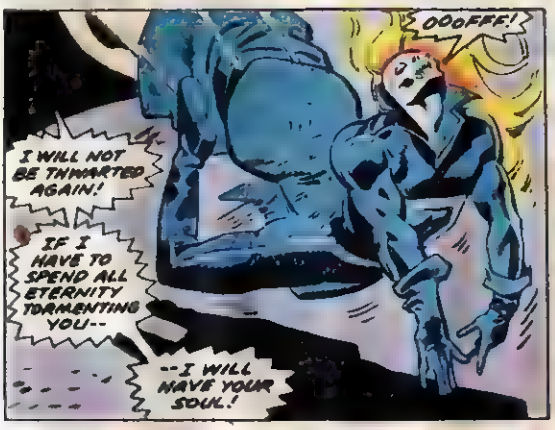

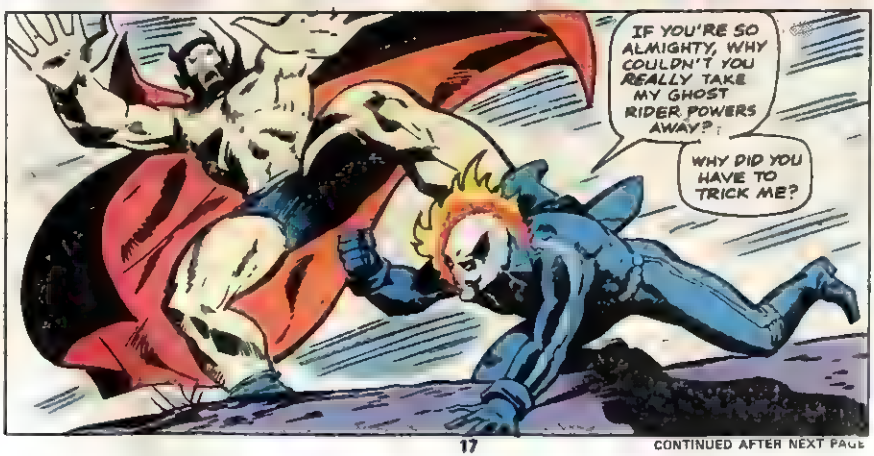

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GHOST WRITERS!

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Dear Tony, Frank, and Marv

It's amazing how much my opinion of GHOST RIDER has changed during the past several issues. There was a time when I didn't like him very much. The major reason for my dislike was probably the fact that I'm not too fond of the way you mix the supernatural of Satanism with the super heroics of your super heroes. But now that the series is steering away from the super natural (which, face it, can get tiring pretty quick, especially when it's forced into super hero molds), and is moving towards the more traditional super adventure modes, I'm becoming very pleased with the results. Some might say that traditional super heroes are becoming outmoded, but exciting new twists always seem to be evident in Marvel Comics. I hope that this latest mini-epic will result in an almost total divorce from the involvement of the supernatural in this strip, and that Johnny Blaze will be able to continue his adventures as a super-powered cycle-cowboy.

Tony Isabella may have had a slow start—during which he often fell into the realm of the trivial, juvenile, and ridiculous but he has come through a major maturing process. I am really in favor of the characterization that has been given to Johnny and his supporting cast (prime examples being pages 14 through 16 in issue #17).

And I'm happy to say that Frank Robbins' highly individualistic style has found another series that it is in complete harmony with. I used to think that the only series Frank's style could fit well with was the INVADERS. Happily, he has found another spot.

Big things should be coming for GHOST RIDER. You just pushed DOCTOR STRANGE, POWER MAN, and MARVEL TWO IN ONE up to monthly publication. When can we expect GHOST RIDER to join them?

Larry Twiss
227 Fox Run
King of Prussia, PA 19406

Gee, your guess is as good as ours, Larl After all, what do we armadillos know about publication schedules? Just what Stan the Man, Jolly Gerry, and the battlin' Bullpen staff tells us that's what!

And we're so happy that you're happy with GHOST RIDER's gradual de-satanization program. The way we see it, Ol' Scratch is probably too busy keeping his realm in chuck to bother with one lowly mortal, even if said mortal eventually managed to save his soul from a deal with the great deceiver. Be that as it may, Johnny Blaze's hellfire powers are back at their peak, and he's about to take off down the road towards the most fantastic adventures yet.

And say, while we're at it, let's give a tip of the old armadillo ears to Jim (Trouble) Shooter for stepping in with a scripting assist this issue. Thanks, big fella, we couldn't have done it without ya!

Dear Tony, Frank, Vince, Marv, and Stan

As of late, GHOST RIDER had seemed rather lackluster. Then, issue #17 came along.

Whenever Daimon Hellstrom and Johnny Blaze get together, I know that we're in for entertainment. And it certainly rang true with this issue. It all started out as a common possession, what with Katy Milner being possessed by demonic powers. But thankfully, this was no ordinary possession, dealing as it did with sources only remotely linked to the big S. The Challenger looks fascinating, and I really like the idea of the race coming up next issue.

Another exciting thing about GHOST RIDER lately has been the lovely art of Frank Robbins. The splash page was exceptional, Frank! Worthy of framing, I'd say! A fully eye-catching pin up! The shots of Daimon Hellstrom were wonderfully drawn, and the females were gorgeous! All things considered, the art would rate high in my book. And on that complimentary note, I bid you adieu!

Jackie Frost
Route 3, Box 176-C
West Monroe, LA 71291

Dear Marvel

I don't see why Satan should be represented in Marvel Comics when God isn't (especially since both are so connected in Judeo-Christian traditions and teachings). This doesn't mean that I want you to pretend that Satan was never a Marvel character. I simply want you to kill off Satan and remove him from the Marvel continuity. If you can get rid of Kang, I don't see why Satan can't be done away with, too.

Ghost Rider, Daimon Hellstrom, Dr. Strange, the Silver Surfer, and Dr. Doom are among the heroes who would presumably benefit from the expulsion of Satan. And I'm sure you are aware of other characters who have reason to wish Satan expelled from the Marvel Universe.

As for Ghost Rider himself, I think he should borrow the special effects of the Stuntmaster's motorcycle. I also think the subplots of GHOST RIDER should flow into the CHAMPIONS. I'd love to see the Black Widow and Karen Page meet again! Ha!

Giles Dyer
96 Paul Ave.
Mountain View, CA 94040

Well, Giles, it seems that everyone is happy to get the devil out of GHOST RIDER, so to speak—even though it's more a matter of writing him out than killing him off. As we mentioned to Larry Twiss, we've been in the midst of easing Satan out of the book. As you pointed out, Satan is just too tied up in the teachings of the major organized religions. And the Bullpen just couldn't see tampering with religion, that's just not our way. One's religion is a personal thing, and we think that everyone should be entitled to his or her own views of theology. And that's all a big part of why you won't have Satan to kick around in this strip anymore. Johnny Blaze is free of the Devil, with only his Ghost Rider powers to remind him of his past mistakes.

NEXT ISSUE New thrills, new excitement, a surprising new writer, and the same old Marvel magic combine when the Ghost Rider battles Death's Head! And you'd better believe that D.H. is one villain who is not what he seems! He's ... uh, but that would be telling! Just be here in sixty, partners. And in the meantime, drive carefully!

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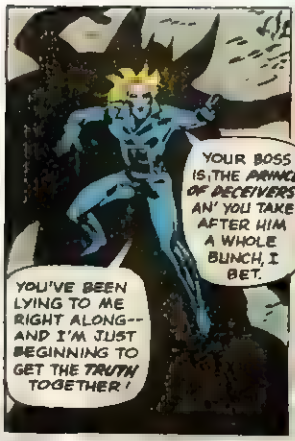

CAUSE MY POWER IS FOR REAL!

NO! NO!

AARRHH!

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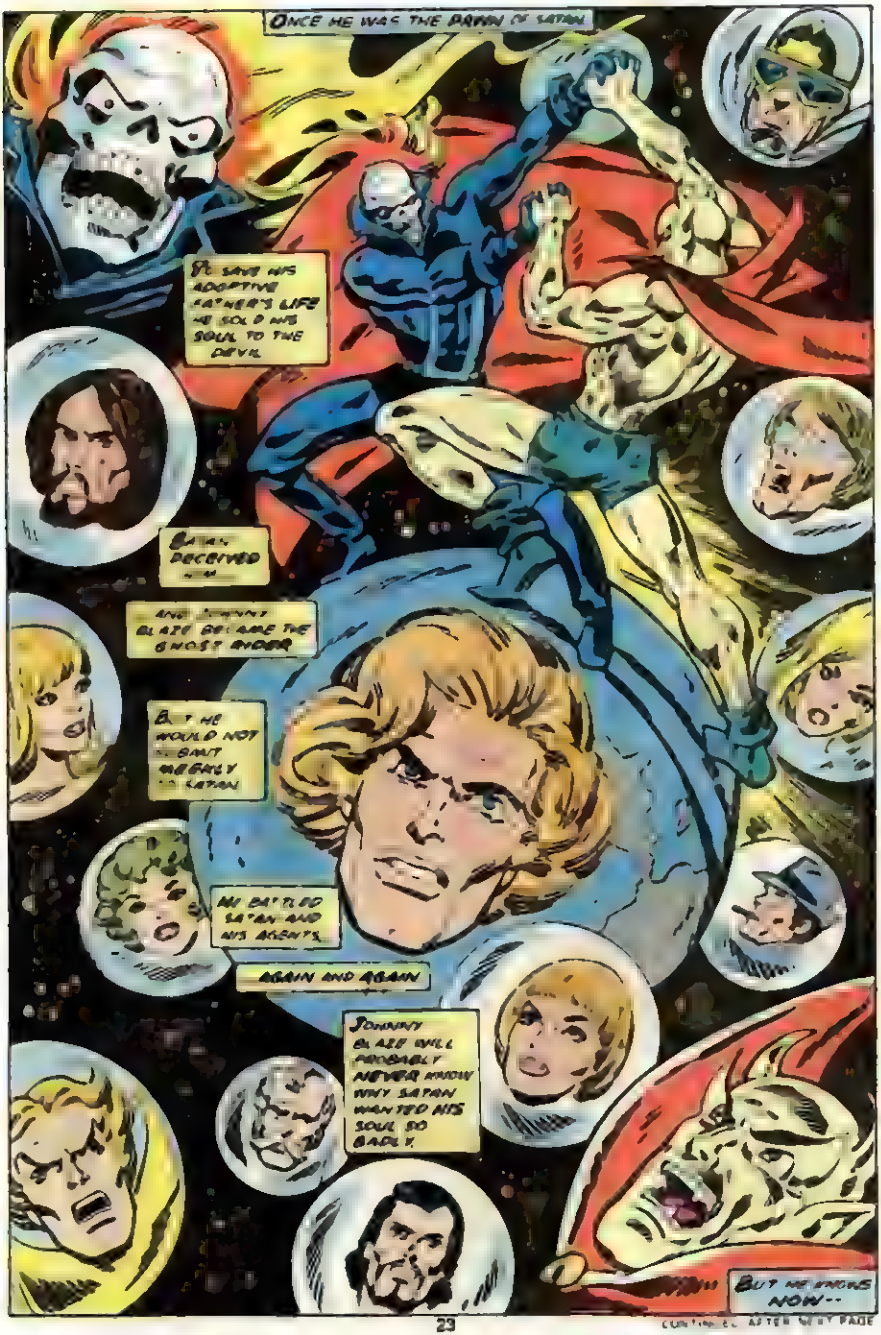

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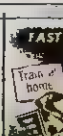

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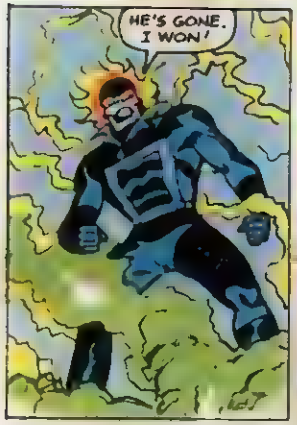

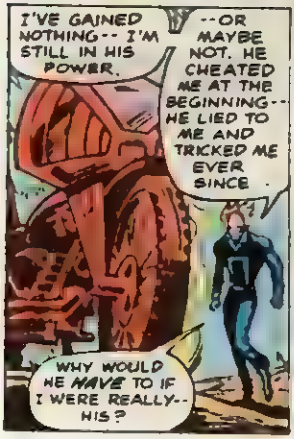

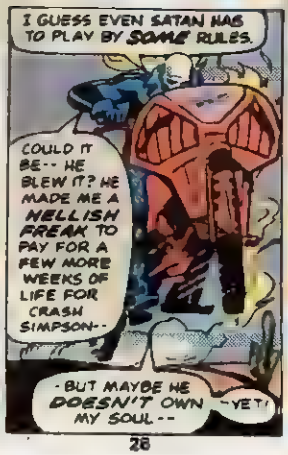

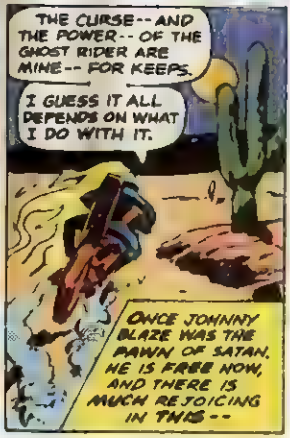

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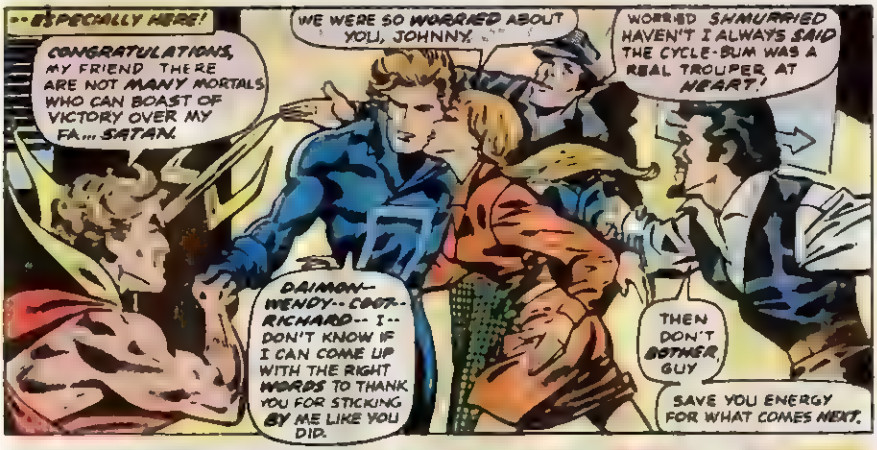

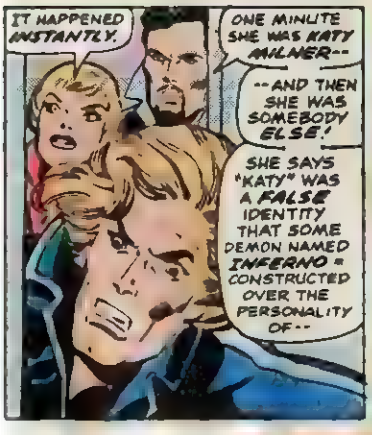

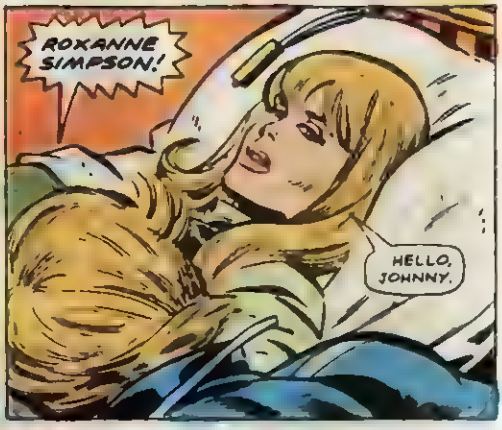

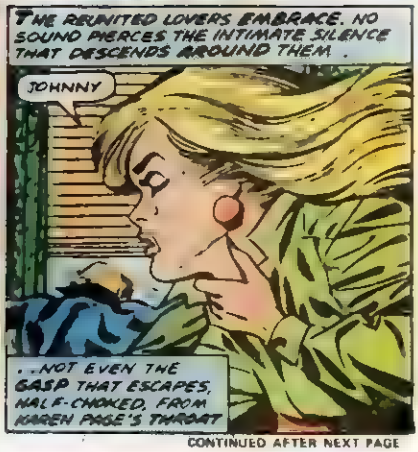

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A PULSE-POUNDING PALIMPSEST OF PAJANDRUMS PURE, PALAVER PARADISIC, AND PAENS PANDEMIC!

STAN LEE'S SOAPBOX

Hoo Boy! This'll be the shortest Soapbox on record! Yours truly just caught the flu! So, between sneezes and fever chills, there's just time to finally tell you the name of the third ORIGINS book coming your way this Fall. First there was ORIGINS OF MARVEL COMICS, then SON OF ORIGINS (both still on sale, of course, and doing better than ever), and now—the big news. No, it won't be called MOTHER-IN-LAW OF ORIGINS as so many of you predicted—though that might have been a zingy name, too—but, since it deals with the origins of the Marvel villains, we decided to title it—are you ready for this?—BRING ON THE BAD GUYS! I'll give you the line-up in an issue or two soon as I stop sneezing. Oh, and thanks to Jaunty Johnny Contin for arranging those two great lectures for me at Philadelphia Community College and Burlington County College. Two in one day was really a kick, John Boy. Finally, don't miss the big news next fish about Gerry Conway and Mary Wolfman! No, they didn't defect to the CIA! That's it, gang. And remember—let's be good to each other—we may not be much, but we're the only human race we've got! Now open the aspirin bottle and warm up the tea, Joanie—I'm heading for home in high gear!

Excelsior

Stan

ITEM! This seems to be the month for Mighty Marvel Milestones, True Believer! Not only do the old X-Men do battle with the new X-Men in the panoramic panels of X-MEN #100—not only does the long-remembered Wonder Man return to the palpitating pages of AVENGERS #150— but the fate of the whole blamed nation depends on everyone's favorite red, white, and blue Avenger, Captain America—and his high-flying action partner, the Falcon—stopping the dreaded Madbomb from blowing everyone's mind to Kingdom Come and back, in the pages of Marvel's Bicentennial treat to you: CAPTAIN AMERICA #200. If you miss this triumvirate of titanic tales, you'll only have yourself to blame, and we don't wanna give you a guilt complex!

ITEM! Speaking of milestones, this month also sees the second sensational set of MARVEL CLASSICS on your newsstand shelves. The literary greats of yore, and the artistic masters of Marvel, combine to bring you such all time favorites as GULLIVER'S TRAVELS, BLACK BEAUTY, MOBY DICK, and the ever-popular TOM SAWYER. No, don't thank us. You know how embarrassed we get.

ITEM! And that's not all, Wild Ones! This month we also present the latest and greatest MARVEL TREASURY EDITION, featuring the God of Thunder himself. Yeah, that's right. Goldilocks and his Asgardian buddies battle the Mighty Mangog in a full-length blast from the past! And, if you want to see what maniacal Mangog's doing these days, pick up the current issues of the regular, all-new THOR! Both are treats to titillate the tastebuds of all True Believers. Thou shalt not miss this one!

ITEM! You've been asking for it! And never let it be said that we head not thy requests! So, from now on, whenever you send for a subscription to any Mighty Marvel mag, your copies will be mailed to you flat—UNFOLDED! You'll find all the details in the subscription ad elsewhere in this issue. With this newest treat, there isn't a single reason not to get your Marvels by mail. Try it, and you'll be glad you did. Of course, your mailman might not be thrilled carrying about those thousands of extra subscription copies, but when he finds out they're Marvel mags, he'll be glad to do his bit to further the cultural revolution!

ITEM! With all the other specials winging your way this month, we don't want the following twin titles to be lost in the shuffle. This is the month we bring back an old friend, and try out a nutty new concept we think you'll really dig. So welcome back KULL THE DESTROYER, and say hello to THE MAN-BEAST CALLED...WOODGOD! Kull comes smashing your way from the combined talents of Rascally ROY THOMAS, Devil-May-Care DOUG MOENCH, Edwardian ED HANNIGAN and Smashin' STEVE GAN! And it features the wildest, weirdest sword-and-sorcery sensation this side of Cimmeria. WOODGOD, by Boisterous BILL MANTLO, KEITH GIFFIN and KLAUS JANSON, makes its appearance in MARVEL PREMIERE #31. He's a superhero, and not your garden-variety type, either. So take a peek at what may be the craziest character to come your way since that fateful day the gamma-irradiated Bruce Banner had his first transformation. While we're at it, let's give another plug to an upcoming mind-boggler from Marvel, namely the oft-mentioned new masterwork: The Man Called NOVA! It'll be hitting your newsstand this June, and we'll tell ya that everyone in the whole blamed Bullpen is just wild over this brand-new superhero. Fact is, friends, we haven't seen so much excitement around here in years, as the gang wonders exactly when Marvelous MARV WOLFMAN, Big JOHN BUSCEMA, and Jottin' JOE SINNOTT will actually finish the balmy book! Even STAN the Man has caught the NOVA fever, by making this a monthly title even before the first issue comes out! That's how sure he is, and that's how sure we all are that you'll really dig this newcomer. So, join Richard Rider and company, for a trek into superhero action like you've never seen before!

ITEM! Lately we've been deluged with No Prize requests for everything from finding a spelling error that one of our infamous armadillos may have somehow let slip by, to discovering a fingernail missing on a character's hand. So, we thought we'd like to restate the philosophy behind the No Prize, here and now, where every Marvelite will be sure to read it! Nearly nobody likes to be a loser, and everyone likes to be a winner, so, if we give an actual prize for spotting some major mistake, there will be some losers who won't be getting anything. Therefore, we created, long before the dawn of man, or maybe a week or two after, the No Prize! Awarded for the discovery of some error of major proportions that cannot be explained by a Bullpenner, or for some meritorious feat of research, or for any act of Marveldom heroism, above and beyond the call of sanity! The No Prize eliminates losers, 'cause—how can there be a loser for a No Prize? And, for those of you who have never been no-prized, the incredible impact of the awesome honor, if and when you get it, will be one of the greatest events of your life—exceeded only by that fateful day when you learn about sugarless bubble gum—or that girls are different from boys!

ITEM! Hey! We're running out of room, so we've got just one rhapsodical request. Y'see, we're trying to work up a list of all the college comic book courses that are being taught across the country, for sinister reasons known only to the High Armadillo. So, if ya know of one, attend one, or teach such a course, drop us a card, eh? Until next month, don't live in gloom—back FOOM!

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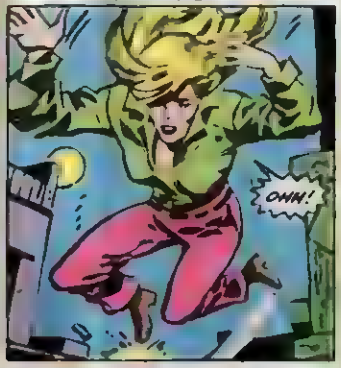
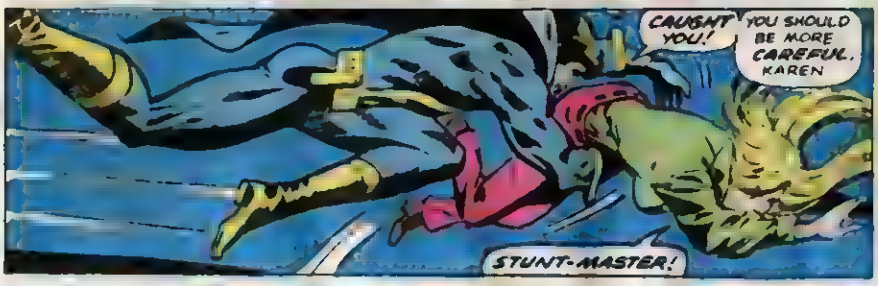
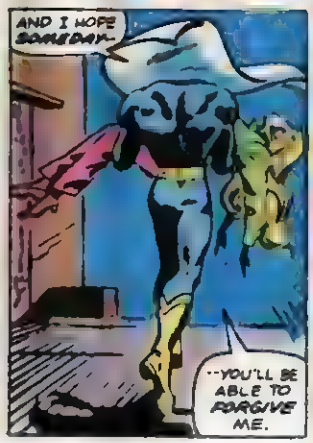
SHE DIDN'T LOVE HIM, BUT, OH, SHE WANTED TO

SHE WANTED NOT TO GET HURT AGAIN.

SHE ONLY WANTS TO RUN AWAY FROM IT ALL







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I'LL CUT OUT A PIECE OF THIS MOUNTAIN...

...AND TURN THAT FLOODING RIVER INTO...

...A GIANT BATH-TUB!

LATER...

STRANGER, YOU WENT THROUGH THAT MOUNTAIN LIKE A BULLET!

YOU EVEN LOOK LIKE A HUMAN BULLET!

THAT'S WHY I'M KNOWN AS BULLETMAN, THE HUMAN BULLET!

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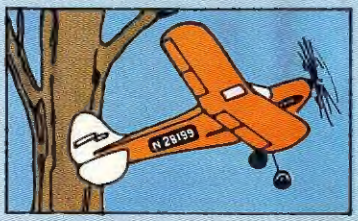

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